

**Notic of Allowability**

Application No.

10/728,556

Examiner

Dennis M. Butler

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS ET AL.

Art Unit

2115

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication received on December 5, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 6/7/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

1. This action is in response to the application that was received on December 5, 2003. Claims 1-24 are pending. The drawings received on December 5, 2003 have been approved by the examiner.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. In the specification:
  - A) on page 2,
    1. in line 6 of paragraph [0001], changed "\_\_\_\_\_" to -10/625,812--;
  - B) on page 10,
    1. in line 6 of paragraph [0052], changed "\_\_\_\_\_" to -10/625,812--;
  - C) on page 28,
    1. in line 6 of paragraph [00114], changed "\_\_\_\_\_" to -10/625,812--.
4. The above examiners amendment was necessary in order to place this application in condition for allowance. If applicant does not agree with the changes made by the examiner, the examiner will enter a 312 amendment for correcting the above problems.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The cited prior art references describe graphics processing systems that include a plurality of graphics processing units for generating an image on a display. The graphics processing units include input and output ports that receive

synchronization signals. None of the cited prior art references describe or suggest a control panel that indicates the synchronization input and output ports on the graphics processing units.

The claimed invention is allowable over the art of record because the art of record does not teach or suggest a method, computer readable medium or apparatus for testing synchronization between a first graphics processing unit coupled to a second graphics processing unit comprising detecting an incoming synchronization signal has been received and determining whether it was received from one of the first graphics processing unit, the second graphics processing unit and an external source, indicating on a control panel one of a first and second synchronization I/O ports on one of the first graphics processing unit and the second graphics processing unit as an input port and the other one of the first and second synchronization I/O ports as an output port if the incoming synchronization signal is received from one of the first graphics processing unit and the second graphics processing unit as claimed in independent claims 1, 11 and 19.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis M. Butler whose telephone number is 571-272-

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3663. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Dennis M. Butler*

Dennis M. Butler  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2115